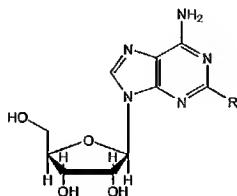


**AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the abstract at page 28 with the following amended abstract:

**Improved Synthesis of 2-Substituted Adenosines**

Synthesis of 2-substituted adenosines of formula I using 2-nitro pentabenzoyl adenosine, or 2-nitro pentaacetyl adenosine, as intermediate is described:



I

wherein R is as defined in the specification. = C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkoxy (straight or branched), a phenoxy group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di- substituted by halo, amino, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkoxy), a benzyloxy group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di- substituted by halo, amino, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkoxy), or a benzoyl group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di- substituted by halo, amino, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyano, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl, or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkoxy). The methods include nitrating protected adenosines and reacting the resulting nitrated adenosine with a suitable nucleophile to provide improved yield and purity of product.